

East Warrington Family of Parishes
PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

*Serving St Benedict's, St Mary's & St Oswald's,
Warrington*



Newsletter

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
20 September 2026

My dear sisters and brothers,

Home Mission Sunday

Today is Home Mission Sunday. Just as October's World Mission Day focusses on sharing the Gospel abroad, Home Mission Day focusses on sharing the Good News of Jesus in our own country – in our homes, workplaces, parishes and communities. For the most part, we do this by the way we live our daily lives.

The work of evangelisation in England and Wales is promoted through the Bishops' Conference Mission Directorate. There is a **Second Collection** today to help fund the work of the Directorate. Every contribution, big or small, goes directly to support the work of bringing the joy of the Gospel to all.

RCIA Journey in Faith

The next meeting for those thinking about becoming a Catholic will take place at St Benedict's next Saturday, 26 September, at 10.30 am.

Hymn-A-Long!

If you like singing hymns, why not join us for a 'Hymn-A-Long' next Sunday, 27 September, 12.00 noon – 1.00 pm, in St Benedict's Church. Let us know your favourite hymn by signing the sheet on the noticeboard at the back of church and we'll sing it! If you wish to stay for a shared lunch afterwards, we'll have a 'bring and share' in the Sacristy Meeting Room at 1.00 pm. All are welcome.

Blessing of Animals

The annual Blessing of Animals will take place at St Benedict's on Sunday 4 October at 2.00 pm. This short service provides an opportunity to thank God for our animal friends, to bless those who are poorly, remember our beloved pets who have died, and pray for the many animals that suffer in our own country and across the

world. The service will last about 25 minutes and will be followed by some treats for pets and refreshments for their servants! Please let people know about the service, especially those who have pets. Every year, people turn up who never go to church but who have heard about the service from parishioners.

Metropolitan Cathedral Chapter

Following the Reformation, Catholicism was outlawed in England and Wales, although many priests and people risked their lives by continuing to meet together in secret and celebrating Mass. Towards the end of the eighteenth century, the atmosphere relaxed a little and some churches were founded, for example, St Alban's and St Mary's in Warrington. By 1850, the Pope was able to appoint bishops again and new dioceses were established. Our diocese was founded at this time. One of the first things the first Bishop of Liverpool, Bishop George Brown, did was to establish a Chapter of Canons – senior priests based across the diocese who acted as a consultative body to assist him with the running of the diocese. Liverpool's Chapter of Canons was established on 13 September 1851 and was the first in the country. Last week, the Chapter marked its 175th anniversary!

Building Works

Scaffolding now enfolds St Oswald's Church and the work on the roof is well underway. On Wednesday, I met with the Archdiocesan surveyor to begin to look at the repairs to the interior of the church. This week, a large cherry picker is due to visit St Benedict's to see which parts of the stone façade need repairing and which parts of the brickwork need pointing.

With my prayers,
Fr Dave

General Information

1) **Parish Priest:** Canon Dave Heywood. Tel: 01925 630127. Email: frdave@rcaol.org.uk Address: St Benedict's Priory, Rhodes Street, Warrington WA2 7QE.
Deacons: Rev Tony Kerrigan & Rev David Boyle.

2) **Parish Office:** Miss Bernie Griffin. Tuesday to Friday, 9.30 am – 2.30 pm. Tel: 01925 630127. Email address: blessedjamesbell@rcaol.org.uk

3) **Parish Website:** www.blessedjamesbell.co.uk

4) **St Benedict's Church** is open for private prayer: Tuesday to Friday, 9.30 am – 2.30 pm.

5) Sacrament of Reconciliation

Wednesdays: 10.15 – 10.45 am at St Benedict's
Saturdays: After the 4.30 pm Mass at St Oswald's
Confession is also available on request.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

	St Benedict's	St Oswald's
Sunday 20 September 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) <i>Home Mission Sunday</i>	10.30 am Mass Agnes & Lukas Machnio	(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass The Parishioners 8.30 am Mass Successful Surgery (Jan)
Monday 21 September Feast of St Matthew		
Tuesday 22 September	11.00 am Mass Sean Harley	<i>Mass at St Benedict's</i>
Wednesday 23 September St Pius of Pietrelcina ('Padre Pio')	10.15 am Exposition 11.00 am Mass Zita Campbell	
Thursday 24 September Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham	11.00 am Mass Nadine Davies	<i>Mass at St Benedict's</i> 7.00 pm Novena & Benediction
Friday 25 September	No Mass today <i>(Meeting of Deans)</i>	
Saturday 26 September		4.30 pm Vigil Mass Annette Aldrich
Sunday 27 September 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) <i>Day of Prayer for Migrants & Refugees</i>	10.30 am Mass The Ryan Family	8.30 am Mass The Parishioners

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

13.09.26	£637.73	(£250.50 Gift Aid)
Standing Orders	£191.25	(£162.50 Gift Aid)
Digital Giving	£240.00	(£127.50 Gift Aid)
Total	£1068.98	
2nd Collection	£251.90	(Catholic Education)

Thank you so much for your generosity.

ADOREMUS

Saturday 10 October, 9.00 am – 6.00 pm

Join us for this year's Adoremus at the Cathedral. The theme is "We Are Eucharist". The event is free and available to all. There will be Eucharistic Adoration throughout the day, Mass, opportunities for Confession, a variety of workshops, and a shared time of prayer for all. More information next week.

ADVENT WALK

Churches Together in East Warrington are proposing an Advent Walk in Padgate and Fearnhead. The plan is to have a series of illuminated displays depicting the Christmas story and other festive scenes along Padgate Lane, Station Road and Fearnhead Lane. To help organise this, we need one or two volunteers from St Oswald's who would be willing to meet with other team members once or twice a month from October to December. In addition, volunteers will need to take on some responsibility for liaising with local businesses and schools, as well as with those who would be willing to put up a display in their own front windows or gardens along the route. If you would be willing to be part of this team, please let Fr Dave know and he'll put you in touch with the coordinator, Anne Tobiasen. Many thanks.

PARISH SAFER RECRUITMENT & DBS REPS

Clara Chan, Doreane Child and Clare Lancaster

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 1)

Today	25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
<i>Readings</i>	Isaiah 55: 6-9; Philippians 1: 20-24, 27 Matthew 20: 1-16
Weekdays	Ordinary Time – Year 2, Week 25

LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

(Names can only be included with the person's consent)

Those who are sick or homebound, especially:

St Benedict's & St Mary's

Kath Bradshaw, Ray Chriscoli, Jean Hendricks, Anne Hill, Mary Hinchliffe, Ged Hughes, Gail Hyamson, Jim Hyland, Vin Jackson, Susan Keating, Judith McDowall, Trina Mouldsdales, Christine Murphy, Ann Pearson, Vincent Pinnock, Sandra Richardson, Kate Rigby, Pembolina Smith, Matilde Valentine, Dolores Woodall.

St Oswald's

Keith Bate, Catherine Carne, Peter Cox, Margaret Exell, Marguerite Jones, Jean Murphy, Jo Roberts, Claire Taylor, Margaret Watts, Wilf Whelan.

Other Parishes

Fr Leo Cooper, Catherine Donaldson, June Fallon, Archbishop Patrick Kelly, Fr Hubert Strowbridge, Pamela Watson, Carol Whitehouse.

Those who have died recently, especially:

Brenda Brathing, Pat Walley, Pat Robinson (*Funeral at St Alban's at 9.15 am on Thursday*), Colin Yates, Fr Thomas Molloy CSsR.